

DISPATCH		CONFIDENTIAL		KUNWOLF 39/3	
TO	Chief of ☐			E 60759	
FROM	KUNWOLF EE COS/Germany ☐			200-124-39/3	
SUBJECT	Chief, Munich Operations Base			DATE	
	CAMOG/DTDORIC/INM/INANITION/Operations			12 March 1963	
	Post Office Box Used by ACL			RE: "12-37" - CHECK "IT" ONLY	
ACTION REQUIRED	FYI			MARKED FOR INDEXING	
REFERENCE				XX NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
				INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY	

ESCA 5144, 26 February 1963

Transmitted herewith are detailed answers to reference.

Attachment A (ACL letter)
B (Items and photostats)

Distribution:

- 2 - ☐ ☐ w/atts A & B
- 2 - KUNWOLF, w/att A
- 1 - EE, w/o att
- 2 - COS/G, w/o att
- 2 - ☐ ☐ w/att A

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
FOURTH METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Handwritten:
200-124-39/39/3

GROUP 1: Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.

FORM 1047 1001	USE PREVIOUS EDITION. REPLACES FORMS SI-204 AND SI-205 WHICH ARE OBSOLETE.	CS COPY CONFIDENTIAL	200-124-39/3
----------------	---	---------------------------------------	--------------

CONFIDENTIAL INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION

MUNICH OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

March 7, 1963

TO: Security Officer

FROM: Director, Audience Research Division

SUBJECT: Cable from Switzerland dated 26 February, 1963

REF:

We shall try to answer the questions raised in this very explicit cable by emphasizing first of all that there is absolutely no other purpose exercised by establishing mail addresses in Switzerland for servicing Radio Liberty than obtaining listener reactions. However, the content of feed-back received from listeners in communist countries is of a nature to occasionally leave the wrong impression because many persons in communist countries write in a camouflaged way that lends itself easily to misinterpretations; they also write about some of their main preoccupations such as health, hard living conditions, and desperate attempts to find lost relatives; they write about their approval of programs they listened to as well as disapproval with what they heard. A basic assumption in this communication process remains that one cannot control in any way those who write to Radio Liberty. We are faced with a continuum on the one side of which might appear a simple postcard without text or return address and on the other side a scientific paper in a language we ourselves might be unable to read. (This latter was the case recently when we received a letter here in Munich from Poland via the Geneva mailbox on February 20, 1963.)

The established policy in handling mail which governs Radio Liberty practices excludes:

1. any private correspondence, and
2. any response other than acknowledgement of letters, occasional acknowledgement of requests (records, books) and discussion of programming topics.

This office is guided by a strict rule of safeguarding the identity of those who write to this station from communist countries. Addresses and all types of information that might possibly lead itself to identifying the writer and listener are deleted from all reports that are issued here for the purpose of guiding programmers on listener reactions.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

200-124-39/3

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The undersigned opened up the mailbox #1 in Geneva 2 in good faith and without any false pretences on January 27, 1962. He gave his hotel address and secured the services of Mr. Jean Pierre Meyer of 9 Grand' Rue, Nyon/Vaud. Mr. Meyer, a Swiss citizen, was told the purpose of the mailbox and given Radio Liberty's pamphlet, "The Most Important Job in the World." Mr. Meyer was told by the undersigned that he might encounter some curiosity about what this is all about and Mr. Meyer's reaction at that time was that he, as a Swiss citizen, believed that this is fully legitimate research and he would be ready to speak up for the good cause outlined in the pamphlets made available to him. The undersigned and Mr. Meyer were in agreement that the political climate of Switzerland was of a nature that if opinion leaders concerned were to know in detail what Radio Liberty stands for, they would be prepared to give it full support. Mr. Meyer opened a mailbox #114 at Nyon on February 14, 1962 as well. Mr. Meyer makes it his business to service both mailboxes twice a week. He is also provided with the various names used in the programs of different desks broadcasting the Geneva and Nyon mailbox addresses.

Radio Liberty encourages dialogues with listeners which deal exclusively with political, economic and social topics. To liven up a program, it is useful to obtain through the mail controversial ideas of listeners. A few listeners might spark a program by what they write and perhaps after hearing it, comment on it. However, at no time has there been any other "correspondence" with listeners. In other words, to the best knowledge of the undersigned, no individual response that would furnish an individual listener with information was ever broadcast. On the contrary, what an individual might have written in has been utilized in programs only in those cases when it served the interest of all or a large segment of the audience.

The medical radio program that goes out over Radio Liberty is prepared by Dr. Schultz who uses the radio pseudonym of Dr. Starostine. A check with Dr. Schultz revealed that he had heard of Dr. Aron Starobinsky in Geneva, but did not believe that he had ever met him personally or that he had collaborated with him for a radio program. The assumption that Dr. Starostine and Dr. Starobinsky are identical is erroneous. However, the possibility cannot be excluded that the Geneva doctor may have submitted scripts in the past.

Attached herewith are copies of the referenced reports which indicate how we dealt with the four pieces of correspondence specifically mentioned in the cable. As to the letter written in Ukrainian and posted in Bulgaria, it has not been given any distribution since its authenticity was not established nor its meaning clarified.

Experience in analyzing the large volume of mail from the Soviet Union indicates that a return address given is not necessarily synonymous with an existing return address. This is clearly illustrated in attached Listener Mail Report

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

received via the Geneva mailbox address: Also
photostats of reports #66-63 and #68-63.
are interesting to Radio Liberty from the point of view
programming. It will be seen by reading them that they
are of a hostile nature in the sense that they are
written by strong supporters of the Moscow regime. This
is the kind of mail that Radio Liberty finds most challenging
as conducive toward finding an appropriate tone and gearing
the programs in a manner which will be more receptive to
the important segment of listeners who seem attracted to a
voice that they consider hostile. It will be noted that in
one of the letters, the writer says that the return address
he has given us is a fictitious one (#66-63).

The undersigned was not aware of rules governing
the establishment of Swiss postal boxes and he acted at the
time under the guidance of the Geneva postal officials with
whom he dealt. There is, of course, no specific objection
to any change of mailboxes. At this time, however, the
undersigned wonders whether instead of mailboxes it wouldn't
be possible to obtain some simple addresses in Switzerland
since Soviet censorship is apt to find its task more simplified
in screening letters with mailbox addresses than letters
with private addresses.

The undersigned is ready to provide if so desired
photostatic copies of envelopes and all letters received
through Switzerland. He also feels that great care should
be taken in not making a young, well-meaning Swiss like
Jean-Pierre Meyer aware that mail is being tampered with.

To the best knowledge of the undersigned, there
is absolutely no misuse of any mail received by Radio Liberty
via Swiss addresses. In addition, Radio Liberty, by being
the free voice of Russians abroad that reaches its countrymen
in communist countries in ever larger numbers carries broad-
based messages that frequently underline Swiss democracy, the free
institutions of Switzerland and its fine social system. It
is not unlikely that Radio Liberty conveys in the language
of the peoples of the USSR a message that responsible Swiss
citizens would like to have conveyed by their own means if
they had the required facilities. Hence there is little
reason to believe in any grounds for misunderstanding.

MR/mc
Encl.

CONFIDENTIAL